

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13-22 and add the following new claims:

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Claims 13-22 (Canceled)

23. (New) A sheet member fixing device comprising:

a rod having first and second ends;

a hook formed on the first end of the rod by bending said first end at a substantially right angle;

cl a male thread on the rod at a portion thereof near said first end;

a handle formed on the second end of the rod by bending said second end into a circular ring shape; and

a nut with a female thread screwed onto the male thread,

whereby said portion of the rod with the male thread may be passed through a hole of a sheet member and the nut with the female thread screwed down toward said first end so as to support the sheet member by sandwiching it between the hook and the nut.

24. (New) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 23, wherein the male thread is passed through the hole from its hook's side.

25. (New) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 23, wherein said portion of the rod with the male thread is fixed in the direction substantially perpendicular to the hook while the hook is brought in close contact with the surface of the sheet member.

26. (New) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 23, wherein the hook points in one direction.

27. (New) The sheet member fixing device according to claim 3, wherein the nut with the female thread includes means allowing the nut to be screwed down by hand.

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